

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO TAGS SUBJ OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BU AU GR RO AL YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

REF : ATHENS 6351

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO FSFA OFFICIAL, CARAMANLIS-CALLED MEETING ON BALKAN COOPERATION WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA WILL VISIT YUGOSLAVIA LATE THIS YEAR. IN ALBANIA, HOXHA AND SHEHU HAVE CONSOLIDATED THEIR POWER AFTER WIDESPREAD PURGE. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL CONSELOR MET AUGUST 28 WITH BOZIDAR VUKUMIRIC, DEPUTY CHIEF OF OFFICE FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FSFA). VUKUMIRIC GAVE OVERVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH BALKAN NEIGHBORS.

3. MEETING OF BALKAN STATES. ATHENS SESSION TO BE HELD SOME
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TIME IN OCTOBER DATE AND YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE

NOT YET SELECTED. DESCRIBING MEETING AS AT "TECHNICAL LEVEL", VUKUMIRIC SAID WOULD HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE WHETHER GREEK INITIATIVE COULD MOVE ON TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL PROBLEMS. WHILE HE SAID YUGOSLAVS FAVOR ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION, HE CLEARLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS APPROACH. HE THOUGHT ALBANIANS UNLIKELY TO ATTEND.

4. ALBANIA. VUKUMIRIC BELIEVES THAT WIDESPREAD PERSONNEL CHANGES IN PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND ARMY HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED CONTROL BY HOXHA AND SHEHU AND A STABILIZATION OF INTERNAL SITUATION. HE SAID CHANGES WERE PROMPTED BY DISPUTE OVER GOVERNING RADICAL, PRO-CHINESE IDEOLOGY. WHILE THERE ARE NO PARTY CONTACTS, VUKUMIRIC SAID YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA ARE OTHERWISE IMPROVING. TRADE IS EXPECTED TO REACH VALUE OF \$50 MILLION THIS YEAR, WHICH WILL MAKE YUGOSLAVIA ALBANIA'S BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER AFTER CHINA.

5. ROMANIA. VUKUMIRIC SAID RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA ARE VERY GOOD AND THAT BOTH SIDES WANT THEM TO GET STILL BETTER. HE SAID PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU WILL VISIT YUGOSLAVIA LATE THIS YEAR.

6. BULGARIA. WHILE YUGOSLAVIA WOULD LIKE INCREASED COOPERATION WITH BULGARIA, GOY CANNOT COMPROMISE ITS INTERESTS, I.E., MACEDONIA. HE NOTED THAT POLEMICS OVER MACEDONIA HAVE BEEN SUBDUED IN RECENT MONTHS.

7. AUSTRIA. VUKUMIRIC REPEATED STANDARD GOY POSITION ON SLOVENE MINORITY. HE SAID AUSTRIA IS NOT UPHOLDING STATE TREATY. YUGOSLAVIA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ROUTINE INTERNAL CENSUS BUT PROPOSED LANGUAGE CENSUS OF SLOVENES IS COERCIVE PRE-ELECTION PLOY BY UNFRIENDLY POLITICAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING NEO-NAZIS. HE FELT SITUATION MIGHT IMPROVE AFTER OCTOBER ELECTIONS.
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